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FOR RELEASE AT 6 AM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 1952

FROM THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Washington, Oct. 11-- The Senate Internal Security subcommittee has asked the Justice Department to take another look at the testimony John Paton Davies gave the subcommittee in its hearings on the Institute of Pacific Relations last year.

Chairman Pat McCarran (D-Nev.) today made public a letter to Attorney General James P. McGranery drawing attention to recent statements of Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, now head of the counter-espionage agency, CIA, that there may be subversive agents in all federal security organizations, including his own.

The letter points out that the subcommittee heretofore has acceded to the department's plea that the work of a government security agency might be harmed by full disclosure of the evidence in the Davies case. The force of this plea, the subcommittee points out, has been weakened by General Smith's statements. It adds: "In our judgment, the national security issue involved outweighs the narrower interest of any one particular agency."

STATINTL The subcommittee heard testimony, Feb. 15, 1952, from [ ] STATINTL [ ] a former CIA agent, that Davies had proposed to him and a fellow agent, that certain persons, including some who have been described in sworn testimony as Communists, be employed by the agency.

Davies, questioned about the affair on Aug. 10, 1951, on the basis of a secret memorandum, denied categorically the substance of the [ ] STATINTL testimony.

STATINTL

Transcript of Davies' testimony was sent to the Justice Department by

CRC, 5/7/2003

Chairman McCarran on Sept. 21, 1951, and that of [ ] on Feb. 21, 1952, with  
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a request for an examination to determine whether any action by the department

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was indicated.

The subcommittee, in its report to the Senate on July 2, 1952, declared its belief that Davies testified falsely and recommended that the question of whether perjury had been committed be submitted to a grand jury.

The text of the subcommittee's recent letter, dated Oct. 2, 1952, and bearing the signatures of all members of the subcommittee, follows in full:

"Since the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee reported on the case of John P. Davies, the Department of Justice has not indicated any intention of laying the facts in this case before a grand jury. Meanwhile, Mr. Davies continues to hold an important official position in an extremely sensitive area. We are gravely concerned by this situation.

"The Committee is aware that additional evidence in this case, beyond that which it reported publicly but corroborative thereof, is available to the Department. Under all the circumstances, we feel we must ask what action, if any, the Department intends to take with regard to this matter.

"As you know, the Committee has hitherto acceded to the plea that the work of a government security agency would be harmed by full public disclosure of all evidence in this case which the Committee has adduced. Recent statements by the head of the security agency in question have weakened the force of this plea. In our judgment, the national security issue involved outweighs the narrower interest of any one particular agency.

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"We, therefore, respectfully request that you inform the Committee, by letter to the Chairman, of your Department's position and intentions in this matter."